

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER PROTESTS KIM KYONG-WOOK HEARING

REF: SEOUL 5378

BEGIN SUMMARY. WHEN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FORNMIN PAK
JUNE 28, PAK RAISED TWO SUBJECTS: THE FIRST WAS BUGGING
COVERED IN REFTEL; THE SECOND CONCERNED THE ACTIVITIES OF
CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S SUBCOMMITTEE AND SPECIFICALLY THE
RECENT TESTIMONY OF EX-KCIA HEAD KIM HYONG-WOOK. AS IN
BUGGING CASE, FOREIGN MINISTER GAVE AMBASSADOR TOUGHLY WORDED
AIDE MEMOIRE OBJECTING TO HANDLING OF KIM HYONG-WOOK MATTER.

END SUMMARY.

1. MAJOR POINTS OF AIDE MEMOIRE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEN THE PAK TONG-SON CASE FIRST BLEW UP LAST YEAR,
OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS MADE JOINT EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE ITS
ADVERSE EFFECT. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME
"UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENTS...DETRIMENTAL TO THE MAINTENANCE
OF THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN" THE TWO

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COUNTRIES. FOREIGN MINISTRY ALREADY PRESENTED AIDE
MEMOIRE MAY 4 (SEOUL 3693) EXPRESSING ITS DEEP CONCERN
OVER ORGANIZED ANTI-KOREAN ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.
ROK NOW EXPRESS REGRET THAT THE "SO-CALLED FRASER SUB-
COMMITTEE...HAS CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH RENDERS
ADVERSE EFFECT UPON THE FUTURE PROMOTION OF FRIENDLY
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BY ARRANGING (FOR)

KIM HYONG-WOOK TO TESTIFY...AND TO SLANDER THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC THROUGH HIS SO-CALLED TESTIMONY... IGNORING THE COMMONLY-ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL CONCEPT OF COURTESY AND DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE GOVERNING THE RELATIONS OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES." CONGRESSMAN FRASER HAS "ASSERTED CREDIBILITY OF THE GROUNDLESS AND INCREDIBLE TESTIMONY OF KIM," BY INDICATING IT MATCHES OTHER TESTIMONY. MR. FRASER "EVEN MADE PUBLIC SOME OF THE CONTENTS OF KIM'S EXECUTIVE SESSION TESTIMONY." BY THESE ACTS MR. FRASER IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE INTERFERED "WITH DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WITH HIS DEEP-ROOTED PREJUDICE AGAINST AND MISUNDERSTANDING TOWARDS THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA." FRASER'S UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE HAS AROUSED CRITICISM OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE THAT AN ORGAN OF CONGRESS IS BEING TURNED INTO ANTI-KOREAN FORUM. THIS TENDENCY IS "DEPLORABLE" AND COULD INFLICT "SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IF LEFT UNCHECKED." DESPITE UNPLEASANTNESS RESULTING FROM PAK TONG-SON CASE IN U.S., ROKG WISHES MAINTAIN BOND OF FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS AND REQUESTS USG "TO RECIPROCATATE IN THE SAME SPIRIT AND RENDER EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TOWARDS THE SAME GOAL." AMBASSADOR IS ALSO REQUESTED "TO GIVE HIS FULL AND POSITIVE COOPERATION."

2. AFTER READING AIDE MEMOIRE, AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THIS SEEMED TO BE EXTRAORDINARY PIECE OF PAPER. CERTAINLY
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FOREIGN MINISTER UNDERSTOOD U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL SEPARATION OF POWERS. CONGRESSMAN FRASER WAS CLEARLY FREE TO ACT AS HE HAD AND ADMINISTRATION NEITHER COULD NOR WOULD ATTEMPT CONTROL HIS ACTION IN INVESTIGATING ALLEGED BRIBERY SCANDAL. CERTAINLY CONGRESSMAN FRASER WAS CONDUCTING OPEN INVESTIGATION INTO SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT AGREE THAT HIS ACTIONS WERE PREJUDICED. AMBASSADOR SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE HAD BEEN VIOLATED. AS WE HAD FORETOLD, CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROCEED AND ROKG SHOULD TRUST IN THE FAIRNESS OF U.S. JUDICIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURES. ON TWO OCASIONS AMBASSADOR STRONGLY URGED FOREIGN MINISTER TO RECONSIDER DELIVERING AIDE MEMOIRE, POINTING OUT THAT IT WOULD ONLY EXACERBATE DIFFICULTIES AND ACHIEVE NO HELPFUL PURPOSE.

3. JUST AS ADAMANTLY FOREIGN MINISTER INSISTED THAT DESPITE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS, ROKG WISHED THAT ITS "STRONG SENTIMENTS BE CONVEYED TO WASHINGTON." PAK SAID HE FOUND IT REGRETABLE THAT SUCH SHARP QUESTIONS REGARDING KIM HYONG-WOOK HAD BEEN RAISED IN RECENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS. IN A WAY THESE QUESTIONS HAD BEEN "UNPRECEDENTED," AND HE

WONDERED WHY SUCH A BAD SITUATION HAD ARISEN BETWEEN US. HE SAID HIS OWN DUTY WAS TO GET OUT OF CURRENT SITUATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND RETURN TO HEALTHIER AND MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP; HE THEN ONCE AGAIN INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT SENTIMENTS IN AIDE MEMOIRE BE PASSED TO WASHINGTON.

4. COMMENT: STERN TONE WITH WHICH PAK CONVEYED AIDE MEMOIRE AND UNNECESSARILY TOUGH AND ACCUSATORY LANGUAGE IN IT INDICATE HE MOST LIKELY ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM AN EMOTIONAL AND ANGRY PRESIDENT PAK WHO WE KNOW, ACCORDING BLUE HOUSE REPORTS, IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT KIM HYONG-WOOK AFFAIR. FONMIN ALSO REACTING TO BATTERING HE HAS RECEIVED FROM TOUGH TALKING NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN. BELYING HIS PROFESSED DESIRE TO IMPROVE THE CURRENT RIFT, SECRET

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SEEMS FAIRLY CLEAR FONMIN HAS NOT ONLY FAILED TO DAMPEN PRESIDENT PAK'S ANGER OR SOFTEN REACTION, BUT HAS THROWN EXTRA LOG ON THE FIRE WITH HIS CHOICE OF COLORED LANGUAGE. UNFORTUNATELY HE IS NOT PROVING VERY STURDY REED TO RELY ON THESE DAYS. NONETHELESS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP THE REALITIES IN FRONT OF HIM AS WELL AS OTHER SENIOR FIGURES AND WILL CONTINUE TO URGE REASON AND A MORE COOPERATIVE ROKG APPROACH ON BRIBERY SCANDALS. SNEIDER

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